## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 041774

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**ORIGIN EA-09** 

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NSC-05 SS-15 SSO-00 NSCE-00 CPR-01 IO-11

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MANILA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TOKYO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON IMMEDIATE

CONFIDENTIAL STATE 041774

WELLINGTON ALSO FOR HABIB

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, ASEAN, US

SUBJECT: CONGRATULATORY MESSAGE TO ASEAN

REF: (A) TOKYO 2574; (B) JAKARTA 2160

1. AFTER GIVING CAREFUL CONSIDERATION TO PROPOSAL REF B FOR PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE TO ASEAN SUMMIT, DECISION HAS BEEN MADE NOT TO SEND SUCH A MESSAGE. DECISION BASED ON WEIGHING OF VARIOUS FACTORS INCLUDING OUR AWARENESS OF ASEAN CONCERN OVER ITS NON-ALIGNED IMAGE AND COUNTER-POINT OF OUR NOT WISHING TO APPEAR OVERLY ALOOF EITHER, PARTICUCONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 STATE 041774

LARLY IF MESSAGES RECEIVED FROM OTHER OUTSIDE COUNTRIES.

RELATED FACTORS ARE DIFFERENCES AMONG ASEAN MEMBERS OVER DEGREE TO WHICH ASEAN NON-ALIGNED IMAGE MUST BE PROTECTED AND EFFECT OF PREVIOUS MIKI/FRASER GAMBIT TO ATTEND ASEAN SUMMIT ON ASEAN SENSIBILITIES AS WELL AS THOSE OF JAPANESE.

2. IN LATTER CONNECTION, JAPANESE EMBOFF CONTACTED DEPARTMENT FEBRUARY 19 TO SAY THAT GOJ WAS CONSIDERING CONGRATULATORY MESSAGE BUT WAS ANXIOUS TO COORDINATE IN VIEW OF REBUFF TO MIKI EARLIER. SINCE JAPANESE AND US EMBASSIES IN JAKARTA HAD BEEN IN CONSULTATION, HE WONDERED WHETHER USG WAS CONSIDERING SUCH A PROPOSAL AND WHAT DECISION MIGHT BE. HE INDICATED JAPANESE WERE ALSO CON-

SULTING WITH AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND. DEPARTMENT OFFICER SAID MATTER WAS INDEED UNDER ACTIVE CONSIDERATION BUT NO DECISION HAD BEEN REACHED AT TIME. THIS CONVERSATION IS OBVIOUSLY BACKGROUND FOR REF A.

- 3. WHILE AMBASSADOR NEWSOM'S PRESENCE ALONG WITH OTHER MEMBERS OF THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS AT BALI SUMMIT WILL INDICATE US GOOD WILL IN LOW KEY FASHION, ADDRESSES ARE, OF COURSE, ALSO AUTHORIZED TO EXPRESS GOOD WISHES TO SENIOR ASEAN COUNTRY OFFICIALS SHOULD SUITABLE OCCASIONS ARISE.
- 4. FOR TOKYO: YOU MAY INFORM NISHIGAWA OF OUR DECISION NOT TO SEND PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE AS WELL AS NOTING CONSIDERATIONS INVOLVED. WE WILL DO SAME HERE. INGERSOLL

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## Message Attributes

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Subject: CONGRATULATORY MESSAGE TO ASEAN TAGS: PFOR, US, ASEAN

To: BANGKOK MULTIPLE

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